

Serial No. 10/826,682
60130-2065; 02MRA0243

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12-14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by published U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0056996 to Fukunaga. Fukunaga does not disclose a lock mechanism including a superlock link slidably mounted with respect to a lock link. Fukunaga discloses a vehicle door lock apparatus including a lock operation lever 24 and an output lever 32. The lock operation lever 24 is rotationally supported by a support pin 24f. As shown in Figure 5, the output lever 32 is also rotationally mounted. Both the lock operation lever 24 and the output lever 32 are rotationally mounted. Therefore, the output lever 32 is not slidably mounted with respect to the lock operation lever 24. Furthermore, Fukunaga fails to disclose a fixed abutment contacted by the output lever 32 in a first superlock link position or any position of the output lever 32. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,538,298 to Ikeda. Ikeda does not disclose a lock mechanism including a fixed abutment formation positioned for contact with a superlock link. Ikeda discloses an actuator including stoppers 12 and 13 (column 3, lines 14 to 18). The stoppers 12 and 13 prevent over-travel and are contacted by an output member 6. However, the anti-theft member 37, which the Examiner is calling the superlock link, does not contact the stoppers 12 and 13 as claimed. The output member 6 contacts the stoppers 12 and 13. Additionally, Ikeda does not disclose any blocking of movement of the first lever 17 when the latch is superlocked. Instead, superlocking is achieved by a lost motion connection cause by shifting of the anti-theft member 37 to the right as shown in Figure 10, resulting in the first lever 17 remaining in the locked position shown in Figures 11 and 12, irrespective of the input from the second lever 33 (the inside lock lever). Additionally, the lock lever 18 cannot be considered to be an inside lock lever as the Examiner contends because it is connected to the key cylinder 19 on the exterior of the door, not the sill button 30 on the inside of the door (column 3, lines 24-28). The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

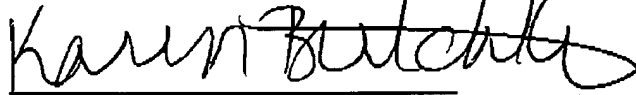
Thus, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., \$120.00 for the one month extension fee. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name

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of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.
Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this response is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on June 16, 2006.


Amy M. Spaulding